

# Gonorrhea Facts

Individuals infected with gonorrhea are often asymptomatic (have no symptoms).

## Possible Signs and Symptoms

- *Individuals often do not have symptoms.*
- If symptoms do occur, this often occurs between 2 and 7 days after exposure but may be as long as 30 days
- Abnormal discharge from penis or vagina
- Burning or painful sensation while urinating
- Frequent urination
- Irritation around anus, bleeding, or painful bowel movements
- Itching around opening of penis (men)
- Soreness or swelling around top of penis (men)
- Painful or swollen testicles (men)
- Bleeding between menstrual periods (women)
- Painful intercourse (women)

## Transmission

- Oral, anal, or vaginal sex
- Infected mother to newborn during vaginal birth

## Prevention

- Abstain from oral, anal, and vaginal sex
- Consistent, correct use of latex or polyurethane condoms or barriers during oral, anal, or vaginal sex
- Maintain a mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested for gonorrhea and you know is uninfected
- Early treatment of STD infection
- If a partner is infected, avoid sexual contact until partner's treatment is completed
- Ensure appropriate treatment of an infected partner

## Treatment

- Examination and tests by a health care provider to diagnose and determine best course of treatment
- Treatment includes medications prescribed by a health care provider
- Follow-up examination can help ensure that treatment has been successful
- Treatment of sexual partner(s)

## Complications/Effects if Left Untreated

- Increased risk for HIV infection
- Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (women)
- Infertility
- Ectopic (tubal) pregnancy
- Chronic pelvic pain

If left untreated during pregnancy:

- Premature delivery
- Blindness, or life threatening infections in newborns

## If You are Infected...

- Refrain from sexual contact (oral, anal, or vaginal sex) if you have symptoms
- Seek medical attention, including STD tests
- Refrain from any sexual activity with others until your treatment has been completed
- Take all medications prescribed, even if you no longer have symptoms
- Make sure all recent sex partners are notified if you have gonorrhea
- Annual STD screenings if you are, or have been, sexually active
- If you are pregnant, get tested for STDs

For more information about STDs or about testing and treatment in New Jersey, please call the HIV/STD hotline or visit our web site:

**1-800-624-2377**

<http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/stdhome.htm>

